

3750 TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

3750 Basic Training Wing
3750 Technical Training Wing
Discontinued 1 May 1959

STATIONS

Sheppard AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

BG Emil Charles Kiel, #1950
MG William D. Old, #1953
MG Edward H. White, #1957



MG Caleb V. Haynes



MG William D. Old, Mar 1953

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Air Training Command converted its newly renamed training centers to the objective wing structure on 1 February, a step it had already taken at the flying training wings in December 1991. At the flying training wings, that meant the command abandoned the tri-deputy structure (with Deputy Commanders for Operations, Maintenance, and Resource Management and a combat support group commander) in favor of a group-oriented wing with an operations group and a support group. A similar situation existed at the training centers where the technical training wing, Deputy Commander for Resource Management, air base group, and clinic/hospital were replaced by a technical training group, a logistics group, a support group, and a medical group. 1992

Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences at each of its technical training centers and activated numbered technical training wings in their place on 1 April 1977. These included the 3250th Technical Training Wing at Lackland, the 3300th at Keesler, the 3330th at Chanute, the 3400th at Lowry, and the 3700th at Sheppard. Several months later Air Training Command published a second order that inactivated the wings effective 1 January 1978, based on realignment actions proposed by the Cadou study. (These wings were again activated in November 1979.) 1977

ATC Schools Redesignated. From its founding in 1959 until 1972, the Air Force commissioning program at Lackland Training Annex (Medina) was known as the Officer Training School (OTS).

On 1 August 1972, ATC changed the name to the School of Military Sciences, Officer. This coincided with a similar name change for the Basic Military Training School at Lackland to the School of Military Sciences, Airman and the renaming of the schools at the technical training centers to School of Applied Aerospace Sciences. The idea behind these changes was to raise the prestige of the schools in the eyes of the civilian academic community. At that time, the Community College of the Air Force was seeking accreditation for a wide variety of courses. However, the name changes proved more confusing than helpful, and ATC reverted to the original designations on 8 April 1974.

Military Training Center Redesignated. Since training officials felt the former designation of Lackland Military Training Center gave an impression that there might be other Air Force centers providing basic training, Headquarters USAF directed Air Training Command to redesignate the unit as the Air Force Military Training Center, effective 1 January 1973.

In an effort to standardize organization and save manpower, Air Training Command implemented a reorganization of all technical training centers on 4 January 1971. The command aligned comptroller, civil engineering, personnel, administrative, and band functions under the air base group and designated the air base group commander as base commander. Additionally, the command did away with the commandant of troops position at each of the technical training wings. In place of the wing staff position, on 1 March 1971, Air Training Command activated numbered student groups at each of the centers to manage the troops.

Concerned that the size of each of the technical training bases was more than a single commander could successfully manage, in late 1958 General Smith asked Headquarters USAF for permission to redesignate the technical training wings as training centers. Headquarters USAF approved the request. Effective 1 January 1959, ATC renamed its military training wing and all five of its technical training wings. The 3700th Military Training Wing became the Lackland Military Training Center; while the 3320th Technical Training Wing was redesignated as Amarillo Technical Training Center; the 3345th, Chanute Technical Training Center; the 3380th, Keesler Technical Training Center; the 3415th, Lowry Technical Training Center; and the 3750th, Sheppard Technical Training Center.

On 26 August 1948, Air Training Command organized the 3750th Basic Training Wing. The wing consisted of five major organizations: the 3750th Station Hospital, the 3750th Air Base Group, the 3750th Maintenance and Supply Group, the 3750th Basic Training Group, and the 3760th Basic Training Group.

In January 1949, HQ ATC informed the 3750th Basic Training Wing that an airplane mechanics school would relocate to Sheppard from Keesler AFB. This announcement was especially fortuitous, since by January 1949 the flow of basic trainees had begun to slow. The number of new recruits had dropped by almost half, from 3,300 in January to 1,700 in February.

On 1 April 1949, Air Training Command discontinued the 3750th Basic Training Wing and

established the 3750th Technical Training Wing to manage the Airplane and Engine Mechanics School and the Rotary Wing and Liaison Mechanic School.

The organizational structure of the technical training bases also changed in the late 1950s, when Air Training Command decided to replace its technical training wings with numbered air force-equivalent centers. Effective 1 January 1959, HQ ATC redesignated the 3750th Technical Training Wing as the Sheppard Technical Training Center (STTC).

26 Aug 48 Air Training Command designated and organized the 3750th Basic Training Wing at Sheppard and assigned it to the Indoctrination Division at Lackland. Five group-level organizations reported to the wing: the 3750th Air Base Group, the 3750th Maintenance and Supply Group, the 3750th Station Hospital, and the 3750th and 3760th Basic Training Group.

01 Apr 49 Air Training Command discontinued the 3750th Basic Training Wing and, in its place, established the 3750th Technical Training Wing.

01 Jan 59 Air Training Command redesignated the 3750th Technical Training Wing as Sheppard Technical Training Center.

05 Jan 59 Strategic Air Command brought the 4245th Strategic Wing on line at Sheppard. It was equipped with five B-52D models.

1959 Communications training moved to Sheppard from F.E. Warren AFB.

15 Nov 62 Strategic Air Command disbanded the 4245th Strategic Wing and at the same time activated the 494th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, at Sheppard.

10 Aug 72 The 3750th Technical School became the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences.

Headquarters ATC discontinued the 3750th Air Force Indoctrination Wing, which had provided basic training at Sheppard, and on 1 April 1949, established the 3750th Technical Training Wing also at Sheppard. The wing acquired Keesler's airplane mechanics school, allowing Keesler room to expand its communications and electronics training programs.

Technical Training Bases Reorganized Concerned that the size of each of the technical training bases was more than a single commander could successfully manage, in late 1958 General Smith asked Headquarters USAF for permission to redesignate the technical training wings as training

centers. Headquarters USAF approved the request. Effective 1 January 1959, ATC renamed its military training wing and all five of its technical training wings. The 3700th Military Training Wing became the Lackland Military Training Center; while the 3320th Technical Training Wing was redesignated as Amarillo Technical Training Center; the 3345th, Chanute Technical Training

Center; the 3380th, Keesler Technical Training Center; the 3415th, Lowry Technical Training Center; and the 3750th, Sheppard Technical Training Center.

By June 1953, despite a major reorganization of Sheppard's technical training, the base population continued to grow. In late June the number of permanent party at Sheppard had reached a high of 23,614 compared to 18,068 in 1952. Whereas the 3750 Technical Training Wing had previously compartmentalized its training into three categories--aircraft mechanics, aircraft mechanics specialist, and instructor training--in the first six months of 1953 the wing established four new departments: the Department of Bomber Training, the Department of Trainer and Transport Training, the Department of Technician Training, and the Department of Instructor Training. The changes were part of a phase-out of obsolete airplane and engine mechanics courses no longer in the Air Force inventory. As a result of these changes, several courses were no longer offered by the 3750 Technical Training Wing. The general aircraft mechanics course, which was the oldest course at Sheppard, having graduated more than 550,000 mechanics, was discontinued. The new Aircraft Mechanics Medium Bomber course replaced the specialized B-29 course, and a F-84 pilot familiarization course for international students was discontinued.

In September 1954, the first of the three departments from Lowry, the Department of Comptroller Training, began transferring its operations to Sheppard. It arrived on 15 September and was followed on 1 October by the Department of Transportation Training. It was not until 1 November, , that the Department of Intelligence moved all of its equipment to Sheppard. To handle the additional courses, the 3750 Technical Training Wing reconfigured its training operation from four to seven branches. Besides the three departments from Lowry, the wing created three new departments. The Department of Aircraft Mechanics Training became the Department of Trainer and Transport Training and was responsible for all aircraft mechanics courses and not just transport type aircraft instruction. The Department of Aircraft Engine Mechanic Training replaced the Department of Bomber Training and was responsible for jet engine, reciprocating engine, and B-47 bomber engine mechanics. The Department of Technical Training was renamed the Department of Aircraft Accessories Maintenance and Aircraft Maintenance Technician Training. The latter conducted classes for aircraft maintenance technicians, aircraft electrical repair, and hydraulic courses.

In March 1958, the 3750th learned that the Technical Training Air Force had made it the Office of Primary Responsibility for Jupiter ballistic missile training. The wing established a Liaison Office at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, in Huntsville, Alabama. The purpose of the office was to oversee training on the Jupiter Missile. By 15 April 1958, the office was fully manned. In 1959, missile training had become the predominate training activity of the 3750th Technical School. The first step in implementing a successful missile training program was the selection of a cadre of instructors. This usually occurred at a contractor's facilities although some in-service training was held at Sheppard.

On 1 April 1957, the Department of Missile Training offered its first in-service training class in basic electronics. The course was 50 weeks long and was designed to allow the in-service personnel to move into the guidance career field. Because of the lack of training facilities at Sheppard, training on the Thor was conducted at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, by FTD personnel, 3750th Technical Training Wing. In January 1960 it was moved from Tucson to Sheppard.

Formal resident training actually began in October 1958 on the Atlas ballistic missile weapons system. An arrangement was worked out between ATC and SAC whereby students completed individual skills training on a missile specialty at Sheppard, then progressed to integration training at Vandenberg. Between December 1959 and August 1960, the school conducted special training for SAC personnel who manned the first Atlas D squadron. Its staff developed a total of 51 individual courses, both special, resident, and field training, on the Atlas D model. These courses ranged from one to 15 weeks in length and enabled the Air Force to staff and maintain 28 missile sites. Resident training on the Atlas D and E models ended in April and July 1964 respectively. Six months later, all Atlas training on the E model was discontinued.

Although overshadowed by missile instruction and the presence of a SAC wing, the majority of courses taught within the 3750th Technical School related to aircraft maintenance. In July 1964, the number of graduates in airplane mechanics and other technical fields far exceeded those in missile training which ranked fifth in number of graduates: aircraft mechanics 3,157, civil engineering 2,063, comptroller 2,047, communications 1,469, missile and space 1,378, transportation 729, and instructor training 176. Out of 150 resident courses of instruction within the school in the summer of 1964, less than half dealt with missile or space training. Moreover, Sheppard's crew chief training continued to grow in the early 1960s. In September 1963, the 3750th Technical School learned that it had become the prime center for the C-141A Starlifter. In early 1965, the school was given responsibility for the new C-5A jet cargo aircraft weapons system. Training personnel had completed and forwarded to ATC for approval a preliminary training plan for C-5A training. Within only four months, the day-to-day routine of peacetime instruction would expand appreciably following the dispatch of 23,000 American military advisors to South Vietnam in June 1965.

The middle 1960s best marks the beginning of the modern era at Sheppard. It is not simply that this period encompassed the midpoint in the base's 50-year history, but rather, it was during this time that the base inherited many of its current responsibilities and began the slow and steady demolition of the temporary wooden facilities that had been quickly erected before the start of World War II. The base was choked with such generic facilities. They did little to inspire an airman to forget the unrelenting heat of a Texas summer or the equally oppressive northerly winds of winter. In the 1960s, the Air Force began to raze the old buildings. They were replaced with permanent masonry facilities such as the 1,000-person dormitories and the hospital. The new structures gave Sheppard the look of a university as the freshly opened space between buildings was landscaped and beautified.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 19 Jan 2022

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *Sheppard AFB, TX, 1950*. A&N Pictorial Publishers. Baton Rouge, LA. 1950.

Unit yearbook. *Sheppard AFB, TX, 3750 Technical Training Wing. World's Largest Technical School for Airplane and Engine Mechanics*. Taylor Publishing Co. Dallas, TX. Nd.

Unit yearbook. *Sheppard AFB, TX, 3750 Technical Training Group. World's Largest Technical School for Airplane and Engine Mechanics. Nov-Dec 1953*.

Sustaining the Wings, A Fifty-Year History of Sheppard Air Force Base (1941-1991). Dwight W. Tuttle. Midwestern State University Press. Wichita Falls, TX. 1991.